GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
CIVIL AVIATION
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:3478
ANSWERED ON:14.08.2000
FLYING HOURS OF BOEING
A.P. ABDULLAKUTTY

Will the Minister of CIVIL AVIATION be pleased to state:

(a) whether flying hours in a life span of Boeing 737 is either 75,000 flying hours or 51,000 flying circle;

(b) if so, whether the Boeing planes in the country are strictly following these conditions;

(c) if so, whether the modernisation of these planes are taking place from time to time; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

Answer

THE MINISTER OF CIVIL AVIATION(SHRI SHARAD YADAV)

(a): The manufacturer has not stipulated life span of Boeing 737 aircraft. However, manufacturer has stipulated only Design Economic life. The Design Economic life of Boeing 737-200 aircraft is 20 years or 75,000 cycles or 51,000 flight hours.

(b) On attaining Design Economic life, the maintenance and operation of an aircraft may not be economical. To take care of the problem associated with ageing of aircraft, the manufacturer has introduced special maintenance programs/checks such as supplemental Structural Inspection Document (SSID), Corrosion Prevention and Control Programme (CPCP) and Ageing aircraft repair/replacement modification programme, the compliance of which ensures the continued airworthiness of the aircraft and safe operations. These programmes have been mandated by DGCA.

(c): Yes, Sir.

(d): To ensure continuous airworthiness of ageing airplane, Boeing Company as per FAA guidelines, have evolved a comprehensive maintenance programme. The programme is as below:-

(i) Some aircraft modifications have been declared mandatory for compliance before 20 years of age
(ii) Some modifications are mandatory to be complied before aircraft reaches 75,000 operating cycles
(iii) A comprehensive corrosion prevention and control programme has been issued, which is required to be implemented at prescribed threshold

(iv) Boeing also constituted a structural task group to periodically review the various modifications and also in service problems on ageing aircraft. The structure tasks group consists of members from Boeing Company, FAA and operators using ageing aircraft. Indian Airlines is also a member of the structural task group.